

## ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

A cable modem termination system (CMTS) for receiving signals from, and transmitting signals toward, a High-Frequency Coax plant includes multiple normally-active CMTSs each  
5 configured to receive and transmit modem-compatible signals, multiple interface modules coupled to the normally-active CMTSs and configured to convey data toward the HFC from the normally-active CMTSs and from the HFC toward the normally-active CMTSs, and a spare CMTS configured to receive and transmit modem-compatible signals, where at least two interface modules are coupled to each other in a daisy-chain fashion to couple at least a first of  
10 the interface modules to the spare CMTS via at least a second of the interface modules to which the first interface module is daisy-chain coupled.

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